

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DOTE-00 L-03 RSR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8159

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, ETRN, BR;

SUBJECT: VISIT OF J. W. CLARK, PRESIDENT, DELTA LINES

1. CONGEN ECONOMIC OFFICER ACCOMPANIED GAGE, CLARK AND LOCAL DELTA REPS DURING MEETINGS WITH GOB OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS INTRODUCTION OF DELTA LASH SERVICE. FIRST MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE APRIL 9, INCLUDED LUNCH, A FILM ON LASH SHIP OPERATIONS, AND DISCUSSION WITH COMMANDER ENIO DE AZEVEDO TAVARES (ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNAMAM), COMMANDER LELIO CAVALCANTI (SUNAMAM DIRECTOR OF PLANNING) AND OTHER SUNAMAM OFFICERS AND TECHNICIANS. DISCUSSIONS DEMONSTRATED THAT BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS FULLY AWARE OF IMPENDING INTRODUCTION OF DELTA LAS SERVICE AND THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING ASSESS IMPLICATIONS OF THIS INNOVATION ON ESTABLISHED SHIPPING AND PORT SERVICES. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS STATED THAT SUNAMAM WILL HAVE TO ISSUE RESOLUTION REGULATING LASH OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS STEVEDORE PRACTICES. BRAZILIANS CLAIM THEY PARTICULARLY DESIROUS THAT REGULATIONS BE APPROPRIATE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATIONS, THEREBY AVOIDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO FUTURE OPERATIONS OF LASH AS WELL AS FOR ROLL- ON/ ROLL- OFF SYSTEM. RECENT BAD EXPERIENCE WITH CHARTERED VESSEL FOR ROLL- ON/ ROLL- OFF OPERATIONS POINTEDLY EMPHASIZED NEED FOR PROPER

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REGULATIONS. SUNAMAM HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED ITS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS INTENTION TO HOLD A MEETING,

PROBABLY IN SALVADOR, TO DISCUSS PRECISELY WHAT REGULATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

2. SECOND MEETING OCCURRED APRIL 10 WITH ROBERTO WERNECK MACHADO, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION'S ADVISER ON NAVAL TRANSPORT MATTERS. MACHADO LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT NOTED THAT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADJUSTING PORT AND SHIPPING REGULATIONS RESTED WITH SUPERINTENDENCY OF PORTS AND WITH SUNAMAM. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION INTERFERES ONLY WHEN MACRO- POLICY DECISIONS ARE INVOLVED, SUCH AS WHEN FUNDAMENTAL ADJUSTMENTS IN PROCEDURES ARE PROPOSED. HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT DELTA STATEMENT THAT LASH WAS AN ADJUSTMENT TO CURRENT OPERATIONS RATHER THAN A DRASTIC CHANGE REQUIRING BASIC POLICY DECISIONS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTED DELTA TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE AND COOPERATION FROM SUNAMAN, SUPERINTENDENCY OF PORTS, AND OTHER PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. HE SHOWED GREATEST INTEREST WHEN CAPT. CLARK MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF HELPING A BRAZILIAN- OWNED SHIPPING COMPANY TO ESTABLISH CABOTAGE AND FEEDER LASH SERVICE. (CLARK RAISED HIS SAME POSSIBILITY WITH PRESIDENT OF LLOYD BRASILEIRO, WHO REPORTEDLY INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST). CLARK ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING LASH SHIPS IN BRAZIL, NOT ONLY FOR DOMESTIC USE BUT ALSO FOR EXPORT TO SHIPPING COMPANIES IN US, MEXICO, AND POSSIBLY VENEZUELA.

3. COMMENT: NET IMPRESSION CREATED DURING DISCUSSIONS WAS THAT BRAZIL, WHICH CURRENTLY STUDYING ENTIRE ISSUE OF LASH SERVICE, WOULD NOT OPPOSE INTRODUCTION OF DELTA LASH VESSELS. PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS SEEM TO BE WHETHER SUNAMAM WILL ISSUE REGULATIONS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL FIRST DELTA LASH VESSEL IN JULY AND WHETHER NEW REGULATIONS WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY LIBERAL TO PERMIT LASH VESSELS TO APPROXIMATE THEIR OPTIMUM WORKING CONDITIONS. SUNAMAM AWARENESS OF NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION AND ITS PREPARATIONS FOR A MEETING OF ALL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT JULY DEADLINE MAY WELL BE MET. DECLASSIFY DECEMBER 31, 1973.
BOONSTRA

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